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The Voice

Algona High School

Edited by: Megan Simonson and Allison Kajewski

November 20, 2009

"Ho, Ho, Ho," what would you like for Christmas?

Allison Kajewski

Whether you like it or not, it's time to start Christmas shopping. Christmas shopping should be fun, but when you don't know what people want for Christmas, it can a bigger pain than fun.

Parents, here are some ideas for gifts that your high schooler is interested in. A laptop, which you can get in all different price ranges, is available at Best Buy, along with a variety of other stores. Another thing kids want is the iPod Touch, which runs around \$200 and can be purchased at a variety of locations such as Target, Walmart, or Best Buy. A few other big hits that kids want for Christmas are TVs, digital cameras, and just plain money!

Kids, need ideas for gifts for your friends? Well, here are some things they want. Movies such as *The*

Hangover, *The Proposal*, or any other newly released movie. Another gift idea would be games like video games or board games. Some other ideas would be books, CDs, or even gift cards. The best thing about getting these things for your friends is that you know what they like, and they all can come in any price range that best fits your budget.

If you have the patience for long lines and busy malls, Black Friday is the day to go shopping. Black Friday is the Friday after Thanksgiving and that is when all the stores have huge sales. They only last for the day and in some cases just the morning. Like they say, "The early bird get's the worm," because there are so many people shopping Black Friday, that if you aren't early, you'll miss out.

Bradie Becker

On Friday, November 6, 2009, AHS held the six on six intramural volleyball competition. Only three teams showed up. There was a sophomore, junior, and senior team. They played best out of three and had a double elimination tournament.

The sophomores were eliminated right away and took third place. The

final set of games with the juniors and seniors was very close. The first two games were close, each team got a win. In the third game, the juniors got the win over the seniors 15-12. Mr. Elesbecker was the referee; he said, "AHS won't be having another intramural competition because there wasn't enough people participating."

8 retire at State

Jessica Kuhlmann

On Wednesday, November 11, 2009, eight senior players said goodbye to high school volleyball after their loss to Williamsburg at the State tournament in Cedar Rapids. The Algona girls went against Williamsburg and lost in 3 games. The game scores were 23-25, 21-25, and 22-25. Natalie Hackbarth led the team with 12 kills, next was Brittany Vaske and Katelyn Seely with 7 kills each. The team had a total of 36 kills. Molly Cook and Kirsten Lipps each had 2 aces. Laura TerHark had 23 digs and the team had a total of 8 blocks against the Raiders.

It was a hard loss for the Bulldogs, especially the 8 seniors, knowing this was their last game together. Natalie Hackbarth says,

"Playing at State was a great experience that I will never forget."

There were a lot of Algona fans cheering in the crowds, but no one thought this would be their last game; the team and the fans wished they were going on to that next match. It was a huge accomplishment for the team to make it down to Cedar Rapids, and it was also one of their goals.

The Algona Bulldogs had a great season with a record of 37-2 and many memories. The 2010 team will be expecting 8 returning players and 3 returning starters. The banquet will be sometime next week; the school board is still pondering on a date. Congratulations to the 8 retiring seniors, what a great season!



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Basketball begins: Roll 'em over, lay 'em flat

'09 – '10 season pin his shoulders to the mat

Audrey Schuttler

The boys and girls Bulldog basketball teams have begun their basketball seasons. The girls started Monday, November 9, and the boys started Monday, November 16.

The girls' team comes off of last year with a record of 23-1. That one loss came from the Regional final game against Spencer. Falling short of the State tournament, the Bulldogs are ready for a new beginning this season. Seniors Emillie Kenne, Natalie Hackbarth, Molly Cook, Audrey Schuttler, Heidi Behnkendorf, Katelyn Seely, and Kirsten Lipps are looking forward to the upcoming season. Algona is coached by Brad Sudol and assisted by Mike Ford and a new addition, Brandon Schwab. Coach Schwab was the head coach at Vinton High School. Coach Ford says, "We're excited for the season because we return so many letter winners. We're hopefully hungry to go farther than we did last

year."

The boys' basketball team is led by a great group of seniors and will be looking forward to a much better season this year than last year. The Bulldogs went 11-11 in the 2008-2009 season. The boys are also led by nine seniors. They include Brady Collison, Travis Lenz, Nyle Larson, Chad Rutledge, Blake Mills, Nolyn Elliott, Collin Fett, and Austin Zadow. Head coach, Noel McLaughlin, says, "We are looking forward to a good season this year. This group of guys has put a lot of time into basketball during the off season. The Conference is wide open for the taking. We'd like to put ourselves in position to be a part of that race. It should be a lot of fun." McLaughlin is assisted by Jim McMahon.

The girls' first game will be at home on November 24 against Clear Lake. The boys' first game is at Charles City on November 30. Both games will start at 7:45 pm.

Quiz Bowl silver

Hanna Harmon

The second meet for Quiz Bowl was held on Saturday, November 7. 36 teams from 13 schools participated in AHS's home meet. Algona's team of Michael Wichtendahl, Connor McGuire, Michael McMahon, and Tommy Christian placed second with a 7-1 record.

By game five, seven schools still had teams playing. In order of points

scored, the top four teams were Boone 1, Algona 3, and Bishop Garrigan 3 and 4. They all finished preliminaries with a 4-0 record and finished the day in the same order.

The other teams that competed in the preliminaries for Algona were Hailey Metzger, Christi Johnson, and Karina Haas; Kirsten Lipps, Molly Cook, Emillie Kenne, and Khushbu

Megan Simonson

The wrestling season opened this Monday, November 16th. The team ended last season with 8 wins and 4 losses.

There will be kids wrestling from AHS and NSK. There are 10 wrestlers from NSK and 33 from AHS. There could be 22 returners from last year. Returner Luke Ingalls said, "I love it. I can't wait to stand at the top of the podium at State." There is one State returner, Logan

Johnson, from NSK. He is hoping to make it again.

The head coach is Mr. Morgan and he is assisted by Mr. Isaacson from NSK, Nick Kuecker, and Jay Bjuström.

JV and Varsity practice together right after school. They lift and run in the mornings before school. The first meet is December 3rd against Iowa Falls-Alden at home. JV starts at 6:30 and Varsity follows at 7:30 p.m.

Deer hunting

Travis Stone

The 2009 youth season deer hunting went from September 19 through October 4. The disabled season was from September 19 through October 4. The next season is archery, which is also known as bow hunting season, from October 1 to January 10. The muzzleloader early season was October 17-25 and late season is December 21 to January 10. Shotgun 1st season is from December 5-9 and late season is from December 12 to January 10. Antlerless (doe) season is from November 27-29 and 2nd season is from January

11-31.

The public hunting area around Algona is 6 miles south of Algona and about 1 mile west on a gravel road right by the East Fork of the Des Moines River. It contains 121 acres of high ground and timber ground. It includes deer, turkey, squirrel, waterfowl, and rabbit. This land is also really good for deer hunting.

Deer hunting is a fun hobby and can also be dangerous, so you will have to stay safe, wear orange, and watch out for other hunters. Have fun and good luck this season.

Patel; Maddie Gisch, Bair Bradley, Samuel Lipps, and Nikki Salvatore; Shelby Wagner, Breanna Johnson, Joel Lanus, and Christian Fischer; Jacob Kofoot, Taylor VanderSchaege, Joey Candelarie, and Alex

Harms.

This is the second time Algona has qualified for National competition this year. The next competition will be at Spirit Lake in December.

Editorial/News

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RAH, RAH!!

Molly Cook

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, three girls from Algona High School participated in the Iowa State Cheerleading Competition. The three cheerleaders who traveled to Veterans Auditorium in Des Moines to participate were Clarissa Laubenthal-Barnett, Madison Jennings, and Taylor Schealler.

The girls participated in the non-stunt cheers and chants category. They had to do a 2 ½ minute routine with no stunting. They showed off their best cheers and chants for the judges in the Non-Championship Division and they received a Division II rating.

Practice for basketball and wrestling cheerleaders has also begun. This year's Varsity basketball cheerleading squad consists of six girls. Returning senior

leaders are Sherri Zeller and Tori McCurry. The other four girls participating are Mackenzie Thomson, Rachel Hoskins, Taylor Schealler, and Macie Foster. The girls will kick off their season on Tuesday, November 24th, at Algona High School during the girls and boys Varsity basketball games against Clear Lake. "I'm looking forward to a great season," said senior Tori McCurry.

This year's Varsity wrestling cheerleading squad consists of five girls. Returning seniors include JoHanna Degen, Amanda Foertsch, and Megan Heiderscheidt. The other two members of the squad are junior Morgan Coleman and sophomore Haley Dittrich. The girls will begin their season on Thursday, December 3rd, when the Bulldogs host Iowa Falls.

Crash and burn

Hanna Harmon

Richard and Mayumi Heene, better known as the parents of "Balloon Boy," pled guilty to a felony count of falsely influencing the sheriff who chased after a balloon for 50 miles. Their original claim was that their son Falcon, 6, had floated away in a homemade balloon. The balloon crashed, but Falcon was found hiding in their attic. The story was fabricated to gain publicity for a possible reality TV show.

The couple appeared on ABC's *Wife Swap* twice and are amateur storm chasers. Richard Heene's business associates say he was trying

to pitch his own show idea and had a tentative deal in the works with RDF USA, the producers of *Wife Swap*. The deal was scrapped after the balloon incident.

Under the terms of the plea, Richard Heene faces up to 90 days in prison, probation, a fine, and possibly paying restitution for the tens of thousands of dollars spent in the police chase. Mayumi Heene could get 60 days, likely to be served in a work-release program, and probation. Contrary to prior speculation, the deal does not call for the couple's three children – ages 6, 8, and 10 – to be taken out of their custody.

Don't let them find you

Grayson McElroy

Arthur and Norma Lewis (James Marsden and Cameron Diaz), a suburban family in Richmond, Virginia, in 1976, find themselves in a load of debt. Arthur works at NASA, on a project for Mars. Norma has lost her job at the school she teaches at. That's when the box shows up. A small, wooden box is left on the doorstep of the Lewis' house. Arlington Stewart (Frank Langella), a man whose face was burned in an accident, comes to the Lewis' house and makes them an offer. Stewart explains, "If you push the button, someone you don't

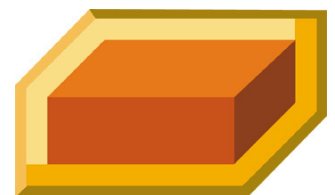
know will die and you will get a million dollars. If you choose not to push the button, then the button will be reprogrammed and the offer will be made to someone else. If you accept or reject the offer and go to the police, then the deal is off and some things will happen."

Norma ends up pushing the button and someone they don't know dies. The Lewis' feel terrible and don't want the money when Mr. Stewart returns. Arthur goes to Norma's father, a police officer, and tells him about everything

that happened. Mr. Stewart returns and warns Norma that because they went to the police, bad things will happen and that he has associates who will be watching the family closely. Norma and Arthur then realize that they are involved in something much more serious and dangerous.

The Box is rated PG-13 for thematic elements, some violence, and disturbing images. It runs 116 minutes long. Frank Langella plays Arlington Stewart as such a cold, complex individual. If you are looking for comedy or something for the family,

this movie isn't for you. "Be prepared to think outside the box," says Austin Warmbier. The movie will have you on the edge of your seat and you won't want to miss a minute.



Health care bill

Derrick Johnson

President Obama and Congress have been trying to pass a health care bill for a while and now they have finally passed it. The Affordable Health Care for America Act, or H.R. 3962, passed on Saturday, November 7.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act is the biggest expansion of health care since Medicare was created more than forty years ago. What it does is it restricts insurance companies from denying anyone coverage with a pre-existing condition of charging too high. The

problems with it are that it is a government run health care experiment that will increase families' health care, increase the deficit, and increases taxes on small businesses and the middle class.

The bill was passed 220 – 215 with 39 Democrats in favor and one Republican in favor. A good thing about this new health care plan is that everyone will have health care once it is put into law. Adam Reimers said, "I think its good that everybody can get health care now."

Don't let this be you

Cody Fortune

H1N1 is spreading fast throughout Algona, and Algona High School wants everybody to do their part in trying to prevent it. H1N1 is transmitted the same way as the seasonal flu, from coughing or sneezing, or touching something with the flu virus on it.

The symptoms of H1N1 are similar to the seasonal flu and include: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. If somebody does contract these symptoms, they should stay home for at least 24 hours after they are fever free without using fever reducing drugs. Kelsie Varvel says, "I had H1N1 and it is craaaaaaazzzyyyyyyy. I hope nobody else gets it!"

The school staff has been provided with disinfectant spray and sanitizers to use to help

eliminate the virus on surfaces around the school. Hand sanitizers have been placed in the lunchrooms. Schools are also advising students who experience any of these symptoms to stay home. Everybody is advised to wash their hands with soap and water frequently and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing.

The Kossuth Regional Health Center had an H1N1 clinic at the high school on Monday November 16th. They gave shots to everybody who signed up for them, and many students received their vaccination. Bradie Becker received his vaccination and says, "It hurt."

News

Northwestern defeats Iowa

Cody King

The Hawkeyes have been living dangerously all season, making a habit of comebacks and close games. Still, they were good enough to be fourth in the standings and hopeful that they would make it to the National championship game.

They lost to Northwestern with the final score being 17-10. Stanzi was knocked out of the game with an ankle injury in the second quarter on the play in which Thomas scored the Wildcats' first touchdown. "Anytime you

lose your quarterback, that's not good," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. This could be one of the reasons that they are no longer undefeated. Stanzi has a "severe" ankle injury, and he could be out for a few weeks. This is looking bad for Iowa because they are scheduled to play Ohio State next week.

Iowa can still win the Big Ten and land in the Rose Bowl on January 1 for the first time since the 1990 season, and this is their next goal.

Dance your heart out

Hannah Kadow

On Saturday, November 7th, four girls from Algona High School attended the State Solos competition in Pella. Seniors Jena Fuerstenau, Hannah Kadow, Rachel Ross, and freshman Chyan Metzger went down to the competition. They competed in the 2A division along with many more competitors from many different schools.

Jena danced to "Fever," Hannah danced to "Just Dance," Rachel danced to "From Where You Are," and Chyan danced to "Knock Knock." Jena and Chyan received Division 1 ratings. Seniors Alynna Freeburg and Quynn Shaw came to support their fellow dancers. Alynna said, "All the girls did wonderful."

The girls left Friday, the 6th, after their practice and ate in Ankeny at Chips.

They got to their motel pretty late and still practiced their solos in the motel. They got up very early to get ready to compete. They traveled across town to Pella High School. They competed in gym two between 9 and 11 am. Their awards were around 12:45.

You can see these dancers and the other drill team members dance at home basketball games. They are also getting ready for their state competition in December. They will perform Friday, November 4th, in Des Moines. Good luck girls.



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ITEDS

Jeni Zeller

On Monday, the 23rd, the students at Algona High School in grades 9-11 started taking ITEDS. ITEDS were taken Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. ITEDS stands for Iowa Tests of Educational Development. The purpose of these tests is for students to apply their knowledge in certain subject areas. These tests can also be used to know a student's strengths or weaknesses.

There are certain tests that every student was required to take. These tests were vocabulary, reading comprehension, language, spelling, mathematics: concept and problem solving, computation, social studies, science, and an optional test. Students' tests ranged from 30-56 questions. Students had different amounts of time for different tests. Some were 10-15 minutes while others were 40 minutes long.

Trapping

Adam Reimers

The trapping season went underway on November 7th. There are all sorts of different animals that you can trap. There is a bounty on beaver. A bounty is when you keep the tail and take it to the courthouse and get money for it. The bounty on beavers are 25 dollars.

Coyotes are not in season ever because they don't have a season. The main animals that people trap are beaver, raccoons, mink, skunk, and muskrat.

Trappers can make

Since the seniors didn't have to take the ITEDS, they got to sleep in every morning until 9:00. The seniors had a short meeting Monday, checked their names for their diploma, and took their senior class picture. On Tuesday, they had a money management presentation. Herff Jones came and talked about graduation announcements. On Thursday and Friday, the seniors applied for PIN numbers for financial aid.

While the seniors were enjoying some time off each morning for one week, the rest of the students were taking ITEDS. Grayson McElroy said, "You want to go home right after you get done taking ITEDS." Senior Hannah Kadow said, "I'm so glad I didn't have to take ITEDS this year." The test results should be mailed to you within 6-8 weeks from when they are all sent in.

a lot of money, but some of the money they get goes to buy more traps. You never know how much money you will make because you don't know what you will catch. "I love trapping," says Luke Ingalls.

When you trap, you have to get up really early to set the traps and to check the traps. This trapping season has been pretty good weather wise, but it has to get a little colder to make it better.

Helping a loving family

Chelsea Korf

On Saturday, November 7th, there was a benefit for the Dana Lee family. This benefit was held at the Whittemore Community Center. At the benefit, there was a very good turn out; a lot of people came to support the Lee family. The food served included pork burgers, beans, chips, and a drink.

A silent auction, went on during the benefit. Tickets were sold for \$20 for a chance to win a gator or a toolbox. Whoever's ticket got drawn first would get a choice of what they wanted and the second ticket drawn

they got what was left over. The first ticket drawn was Ron Ristau and he chose the gator.

One of AHS' students is Dana's son, Brandon Lee. Also, the FFA classes helped served food at the benefit. Ryann Person said, "The benefit was very well done and I enjoyed going to it".

Craig Florea organized the benefit. The benefit raised between \$30,000 and \$40,000. The money raised will go towards future opportunities for the members of the Lee family.

5 Plex

Kelsie Varvel

Algona's finest movie theatre is no longer the State 3 Theatre, but is now the State 5 Theatre. This month two new auditoriums have been added. One of the new auditoriums opened Friday, November 6th, and the other opened Friday, November 13th.

Two of the auditoriums are 3D screens. The 3D theatres' prices went up two dollars to view. The price for adults is \$9.00 and for children, seniors, and matinees are \$7.00. Regular screen pricing is \$7.00 for

adults and \$5.00 for children, seniors, and matinees.

They are roughly the same size, and yes, it has the same entrance as the previous theatres.

For further information, showing times, prices, e-mail programs, gift certificates and/or donations, and links about upcoming movies, ratings, and cast, you can go to www.fridleytheatres.com/algona.

Don't forget!!! Every Tuesday you get a free 46-ounce bag of popcorn with your paid admission!!!

Speech

Ryann Pearson

Speech practice has started again this year. Group Districts will be held in Spencer this year on January 23rd. If the acts are good enough, they will qualify for State.

In this after school activity students perform in groups in categories like One

Act Play, Musical Theatre, Improvisation, Readers' Theatre, and many other categories.

At competition, judges rate acts on a scale of 1 to 4, 1 being the best and 4 is disqualified. Jeffrey Schipull said, "I love spending my time in speech."

School News/Sports 6

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NFL: Week 10

Triston Dacken

This was one of the more exciting weeks in the NFL this year. Lots of teams were disappointed, while some surprised all and pulled off the win.

The Indianapolis Colts played the New England Patriots Sunday night, and pulled off an amazing win. Some might say, however, that the win was more Bill Belichick's, the Patriots' coach, fault for going for it on fourth down. They did not get the first down, gave the Colts great field position, and allowed them to get the win. The Colts remain undefeated at 9-0, while the Patriots are now 6-3.

The New Orleans Saints also remain undefeated after a 28-23 win over the St. Louis Rams. The Saints are now 9-0, and the Rams are 1-8. This game surprised some people, as the game was projected to be a Saints beat-down on the Rams, but the Rams stayed in it until the end.

The Minnesota Vikings are 8-1 after their win against the now 1-8 Detroit Lions. Brett Favre had another good game, throwing for 344 yards, completing 20-29 passes, and averaging 11.9 yards per pass.

The Cincinnati Bengals kept their rhythm going this week in an 18-12 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Bengals have beaten the Steelers in both of their games this year and now have a firm hold on the division.

The Arizona Cardinals beat the Seattle Seahawks in one of only 2

home game wins this year. The Seahawks led 17-10 at half time, but the Cardinals held them to 3 points in the second half, winning 31-20. The Seahawks running back, Julius Jones, was injured in the first quarter and was replaced by their backup Justin Forsett. Forsett ran for a career high 123 yards and a touchdown.

The Dallas Cowboys' winning streak ended this week when they lost in an upset to the Green Bay Packers. The Cowboys only scored once, losing 17-7. The Cowboys are now 6-3, while the Packers are 5-4.

The Denver Broncos lost again, extending their losing streak to 3. They lost 27-17 against the Washington Redskins. Not only does their losing streak continue, but the Broncos also lost their starting quarterback Kyle Orton to injury around half time. He didn't play the rest of the game. The Broncos are now 6-3, while the Redskins are 3-6.

The San Diego Chargers pulled off a 31-23 win against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, improving their record to 6-3, while the Eagles fall to 5-4. The Chargers are now on a roll, winning 4 in a row. Soon they seek to avenge their loss to the Denver Broncos.

The Atlanta Falcons lost to the Carolina Panthers this week in a 28-19 loss. The Panthers avoided the sweep and split the games with the Falcons this year. The Panthers' QB, Jake Delhomme, had a very good game, completing 15-24 passes, 195

Catapults

Alynnia Freeburg

The junior and senior physics classes have been working on building catapults. They began designing their structures on Wednesday, November 4. Then they took a tour of Mr. Gerhardt's shop so they would have a better idea of how to use the tools. The classes then began constructing their catapults that Friday.

Each class is split into small groups of three or four people. They all work together to build the best catapult they can. Each group is provided with three 8-foot 2x4s, a bolt with 3 nuts, a 3-foot long lever arm, bungee cords, and 2 eyebolts with nuts and screws. Those are the only supplies they

yards, and 2 touchdowns.

Monday night's game between the Baltimore Ravens and the Cleveland Browns ended in an embarrassing 16-0 shut out. The Browns now drop to 1-8, while the Ravens are now 5-4.

The first Thursday night game of the year was between the Chicago Bears and the San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers came away with the 10-6 win. This was the 49ers coach, Mike Singletary's reunion game, as he used to be a defensive player for the Bears.

The Miami Dolphins pulled off a narrow win against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with a last second field goal to pull ahead 25-23. They are now 4-5, while the Bucs are 1-8.

The New York Jets

get and all building must be done during class time.

They will be graded on how far their projectiles travel, how close they are to hitting a set target, how neat their designs are, how well they are put together, how well the group members work together, and how close the final product matches their original design. Some people even go as far to name their catapults. Brad Hoskins exclaims, "I'm naming mine Stanzi because he's the manzy!"

They have about a week to put their catapults together before they head to the gym to see whose catapult is the best. Senior Joe Cook says, "My catapult is going to rock."

lost to the Jacksonville Jaguars in a 24-22 upset. The Jaguars pulled off the win with a last minute field goal.

The Tennessee Titans are looking as good as they did last year, and have now won 3 in a row after their 41-17 win against the Buffalo Bills.

The Kansas City Chiefs are now 2-7 after their 16-10 win against the Oakland Raiders. The Raiders have now lost 3 in a row.

The week 10 games in the NFL brought some hope, and some despair. Some teams are using this new knowledge to plan for future games, make coaching changes, and look for players in positions that they need. We all look forward to next week to see what the outcomes are.